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# The Green Thumb

A Newsletter of Extension Horticultural Activities and Events  
For York County Extension Volunteers

March 2006  
Vol. 7, Issue 3  
Kris Wessler,  
Editor

## Future Calendar Events

Apr 1, 9:30 AM	Home Gardener Program – Spring Session – York CO Library, York Branch
Apr 6, 10 AM	Plant Health Clinic – Gilley Drive, Williamsburg
Apr 8, 9:30 AM	Home Gardener Program – Spring Session – York CO Library, York Branch
Apr 11, 9:30	YCMG Meeting – St. Luke's room 21
Apr 12, 6:30 PM	Plant Health Clinic – Pamlico Run, Tabb
Apr 19, 12 Noon	HearSay Gardening – WHRO 89.5 FM
Apr 22,	CNU Gardening Symposium ( <a href="http://lifelonglearning.cnu.edu">lifelonglearning.cnu.edu</a> )
May 6, 9 AM	Plant Sale – sponsored by YC Master Gardeners, Learning Garden & Arboretum
May 7	Bird FanFair – Tabb High School
May 9, 6:30 PM	Plant Health Clinic – Polaris Drive, Tabb
May 18, 10 AM	Plant Health Clinic – King Richard Ct, Williamsburg
May 24, 6:30 PM	Plant Health Clinic – Idlewood Cir, Tabb

For additions/corrections to the Calendar of Events contact Jody at 890-4940, or Kris Wessler at 988-0616 or e-mail [jwessler@earthlink.net](mailto:jwessler@earthlink.net) (put Green Thumb in the subject line). Ignore the computer-generated notice from Spamblocker. The deadline for *The Green Thumb* is ALWAYS the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month.

E-mail changes: If you have changes to any of the methods of communication to you please notify Jody. We want to keep all communication channels open. Any changes will be posted to the weekly e-mails and will be in the Green Thumb.

### ***Master Gardener Mission Statement***

*Our mission, as trained volunteers in partnership with the York County, Virginia Cooperative Extension Agent, is to provide horticultural educational opportunities to the public through research-based horticultural programs and activities to enhance our environment, lives and community.*

[www.ext.vt.edu](http://www.ext.vt.edu)

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Coodinator Notes We had a lively meeting in February and missed many of you! There are several MG programs coming up that need your help. Please read and respond where you can fill the need. If you need to be included in our MG monthly agenda please call me (565-7050) Email: [tombeccacho@cox.net](mailto:tombeccacho@cox.net) A special request for help was made by Mississippi Master Gardener organizations that were affected by Hurricane Katrina. It seems that many lost their entire libraries. They have asked other MG organizations for donations. We collected over \$72 in February to be included with the Amazon gift certificate from the Learning Garden. If you would like to add to this donation or have copies of books to donate please call or stop by the Ext. office by mid March (any checks should be made out to the York 4-H Activities Fund to be incorporated in with the Amazon gift certificate). Also, watch the Sunday paper starting in late Feb for a series on pruning by Kathy Van Mullekom. Just think, spring is around the corner!

Rebecca Cho

E-mail changes Michelle Gazarik - [mvgazarik@yahoo.com](mailto:mvgazarik@yahoo.com); Jim & Teela Robertson - [jimteela1@juno.com](mailto:jimteela1@juno.com); Lanna Rackley - [raylanna@cox.net](mailto:raylanna@cox.net)

### YCMG Upcoming Meetings

March 14th, April 11th, June 13th - 9:30am - 11:30am in the *small meeting space*

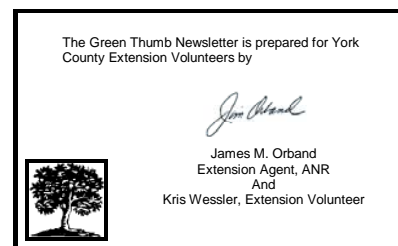
**\*May 9<sup>th</sup>** - Quarterly Meeting 9:30am - 1pm In the *large meeting space*. Guest Speaker, plant exchange, food

\*Please Note: Our Quarterly Meeting has been changed from April to May due to a conflict.

Bird FanFair - Sunday, May 7<sup>th</sup>, 1-5pm NOW SEEKING: Individuals or community groups willing to produce a display or adopt a booth for York County's First Bird FanFair. The Bird FanFair will be a collection of "booths" to include stand-alone displays, volunteer-led craft projects, and interactive presentations that explore some aspect of the lives of wild birds. Our primary focus is on birds that reside in or pass through our local area. Related topics that we'd love to offer include landscaping with native plants, home composting, container gardening, organic gardening, and recycling (to name just a few). Some MG committees may have existing displays appropriate for the Bird FanFair, and we'd love to borrow these over that weekend if possible. If we're able to procure some art display stands, we also hope to invite folks to submit bird photos and artwork for exhibition at the event. We'll have the use of the grounds, lobby, and cafeteria at the high school, so we are good to go regardless of the weather. For more information, contact Jody Turner, [turnertribe@cox.net](mailto:turnertribe@cox.net), 867-1135 or Joel Bunn at the office.

Training Workshop A 4-hour Flying WILD workshop will be held at the Tabb Library on March 7<sup>th</sup> from 4-8pm. The workshop will cover the logistics of a bird festival and demonstrate fabulous bird-themed activities geared towards children. The training (includes a dinner courtesy of the York County JMG program) is free. Pre-register with Barb Dunbar at 766-2174.

Spring Training ~ Master Gardener Continuing Education There's still time to enroll in a workshop hosted by Fauquier Master Gardeners (Warrenton) on March 11. Some of the topics include butterflies, abiotic plant disorders, bird habitat enhancement, honeybees, weeds ID and control, and tool maintenance. There will be special presentations on dahlias, hostas and peonies. Hours are from 8:00-2:10 and the cost is \$20. Call 540-341-7950 Ext 14 for more details.



2006 Horticultural Extravaganza - Saturday, March 11, 2006, 8:15 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. at its new location!!!

Tabb High School - 4431 Big Bethel Road, York County, VA

All volunteers need to fill out a Registration form. The lunch cost will be \$4.00 for the MG volunteers. Volunteers need to indicate they are working the Horticultural Extravaganza on the registration form. The schedule and registration material are posted at <http://www.yorkcounty.gov/vce/upcomingevents/hort/hortextrav.htm>

It is not too late to volunteer! Listed below are the committees and chairpersons. Please contact them if you wish to help in any capacity. If you have any questions, please contact, Ellen Calle (868-1207 – [e.calle@cox.net](mailto:e.calle@cox.net)) or Jan Puliafico (875-5522 – [vpuliafico@worldnet.att.net](mailto:vpuliafico@worldnet.att.net))

Registration:	Jackie Lohr	Facilities:	Tom Dunmire
Equipment:	Michelle Gazarik	Copying:	Laurice Becker
Exhibitors:	Vickie Bunch	Posters:	Lilly Lach
Moderators:	Karen Ward	Evaluations:	Nancy Beadling
Finance:	Julie Rolston	Lunch:	Gina Niedenberger

Learning Garden- Work/Learn Day in the Learning Garden is every Thursday from 9:30am-12:00 weather permitting. We meet the first Thursday of every month for a meeting in the Environmental Services building on Service Road. Come join us! We have erected 8 beautiful trellises around our benches. They will support some vines and climbing roses that will add great interest to our "classroom area". Thank you to Mary Alice DeBow's husband for making them. We have more mulch to spread and plants to repot so if you have Thursday mornings free come on over. *Carol Brower* (Coordinator for the month of February)

#### Home Gardener Program Spring Session Volunteers Still Needed! - **March 18, 25, April 1, April 8, 2006**

Volunteers are still needed for the Home Gardener Spring Program. Subjects to be covered are: **March 18, Beginning a Garden** (How Plants Grow, Preparing the Soil, and Creating a Garden Bed all to be taught by Bob Moesch); **March 25, What to do for your Garden** ( *Planting by\*\*Instructor needed\*\**; Fertilizers by Agnes Evans; and Water by Evelyn Parker); **April 1, Plant Selection** (Annuals and Perennials by Steve and Rae Hinderliter; Trees and Shrubs by Jackie Lohr, and Groundcovers by Joanne Roberts); and **April 8, Pests and Control** (Integrated Pest Management by Diane Short; and Vertebrates and Diseases with emphasis on organic methods by Bill Garlette). We still need one instructor to teach about "Planting" on March 25 and we need moderators for each week. The moderator will introduce the speaker and assist as needed. It's really easy! **You can sign up to moderate for just one Saturday. All sessions are from 9:30-12:30. If you are interested please contact me at [nanthompson2@yahoo.com](mailto:nanthompson2@yahoo.com), or 643-6314.** *Nancy Thompson*

#### Horticultural Therapy Group at York Convalescent Center, 113 Battle Road, Yorktown, VA 23692

The next session will be Tuesday, March 28 at 10:15 a.m. Please contact Anita Lee to volunteer or if you have any supplies to donate: 766-1788(H), 810-8532(C), or e-mail [leepropmgt@cox.net](mailto:leepropmgt@cox.net). Volunteers are needed to pick up donated flowers from florist shops in the area and to prepare floral supplies the day before. Also, donations of wet foam (used or new), plastic laundry caps or other floral supplies would be appreciated. Please bring clippers or scissors and some greenery/flowers from your garden if possible. If you are looking to purchase flowers locally, please consider using the vendors who have continually and generously supported this program: Floral Fashions in Poquoson, Yorktown Flower Shoppe, and Farm Fresh at Kiln Creek and in Grafton.

Thanks to all the volunteers who regularly assist with this program. You are the best!! *Anita Lee*

Plant Health Clinics Spring is just around the corner and that means it's time for the Plant Health Clinics. These clinics involve citizens in a hands-on educational program in their neighborhood and teach correct horticultural practices for their landscapes. Extension staff will present a brief review of existing county-wide problems and then walk around with residents to observe, diagnose, and recommend remedies for landscape problems. A Question and Answer period will close the clinic. Dates: April 6 & 12, May 9, 18, & 24. To assist with clinics please contact Carol Tate at 898-1275.

Sad News During the month of February, sadly, we lost two Master Gardeners. Tom Duggins passed away on Feb.1. He became a Master Gardener in 2002, after retiring from teaching and had been very active in the program. He helped in the Learning Garden, the Horticultural Extravaganza, office phones and was coordinator of the lawn team for two years. He was a quiet, mild mannered man and a willing worker who would take care of a program with little need of guidance. On Feb. 7, Lori Robeson died after a battle with cancer. She was a member of the Class of 1997, and was active until she passed away. She was one of the office phone coordinators in 2002. Before she had health problems, she participated in horticultural therapy, Horticultural Extravaganza, office phones and the lawn team. She was one of what we lovingly called the "Three Musketeers", Margaret Cotton and Jackie Lohr are the other two. They were in the same class and did so much together! Lori was a dear sweet lady with a contagious laugh. Both Lori and Tom will be greatly missed. Our sympathy goes out to their families. Plants and cards were sent to both of their families on behalf of the York Master Gardeners.

Sunshine Corner For you new MGs, we do have a Sunshine Fund. We collect money at our meetings and in the past year sent flowers and cards only when an MG died or a member's spouse or child died. Cards are always sent to MGs when they have a serious illness or surgery. At the last program meeting on Feb.14, we voted to begin sending flowers to members who are seriously ill. Flowers were sent to Martha Wilkins who lost her son in Dec. Our thoughts have been with Martha during this time. In the fall we made a donation to a master gardener not in our unit. Bob Annette, from Hampton died. We made a donation to the Living Museum in memory of him. He was called the "bug man" and helped our unit in many ways over the years. Recently, Jane Gustin had surgery on her leg and is having a very difficult time. It will be some time before she is up and around. Our thoughts and prayers are with Jane as she goes through this trying time.

The balance in the fund at the end of 2004... \$118.13.  
We collected.....+\$168.17  
Subtotal.....\$286.30  
We spent..... - \$100.00  
Balance at the end of 2005.....\$186.30  
Balance as of Feb.13 2006.....\$139.90

If you learn of any one who is ill please let me know.  
*Mary Frances Baker* - maryfrancesbaker@cox.net  
898-6773

THANKS! There are eight new cedar trellises in the Learning Garden. Mike DeBow, Mary Alice Debow's husband, made them for us and they are beautiful. We thank Mike for all his work and time. Thanks also go to Harry Halley, David Taylor, Hank Scheele, Tom Dunmire and Larry Riddick who installed all eight of them in one day. They even put them in concrete. The trellises are located around the benches and they look terrific. In the Spring we will be planting vines on them. Stop by and take a look when you are at the office.

Joanne Roberts and Mary Frances Baker ( Ground Covers & Vines in the Learning Garden)

# March 2006

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2 Learning Garden Meeting 9:30-12	3	4
5	6	7	8	9 LG 9:30	10	11 Hort Extrav. Tabb HS – 8:15  Good Gardening Symposium 9-3 Prince Geo, VA
12	13	14 YCMG Planning Meeting 9:30, St. Luke's	15 12 Noon HearSay Gardening WHRO 89.5 FM	16 LG 9:30	17	18 9:30 Home Gardener Progm York CO Library
19	20	21 Peninsula MG Planning mtg- Northside Christian Church 9 AM	22  Jim @ Roanoke for Inservice	23 LG 9:30  Jim @ Roanoke for Inservice	24  Jim @ Roanoke for Inservice	25 9:30 Home Gardener Progm York CO Library
26	27	28 Hort Therapy 10:15 York CC	29	30 LG 9:30	31	